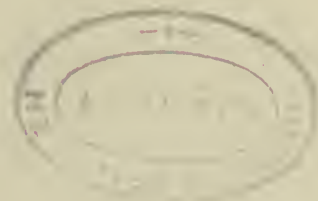


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-) A N N U A L R E P O R T (-

of

-) THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (-

for the

-) URBAN DISTRICT OF ALTON (-

for the year 1925.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Alton
for the year 1925.



Gentleman,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1925, the population of the Town is estimated by the Registrar General as 5410. In 1924, the population was 5488.

The area is 3925 acres, and the number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 1415.

The Rateable value is £25628. and the sum represented by a penny rate is £106. 15. 8.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

<u>Births.</u>	M. 52.	F. 42.	Total	94.
Legitimate.	M. 47.	F. 37.		
Illëgitimate.	M. 5.	F. 5.		
Births in 1924	-	-	-	107.
Birth Rate per 1000	-	-	-	17.4.
Birth Rate per 100 in 1924.	-	-	-	19.35.
Birth Rate per 1000 in England and Wales.	-	-	-	18. 3.
Birth Rate per 1000 in England and Wales in 1924.				18. 8.
<u>Deaths.</u>	M. 24.	F. 33.	Total	57.
Beaths in 1924	-	-	-	71.
Death Rate per 1000	-	-	-	10. 5.
Death Rate per 1000 in 1924.	-	-	-	12. 8.
Death Rate per 1000 in England and Wales.	-			12. 2.
Death Rate per 1000 in England and Wales in 1924				12. 2.
<u>Deaths in Infants under 1 year.</u>			Total	3.

Death Rate per 1000 births	- - - - -	31.9.
Death Rate per 1000 births in England and Wales	-	75.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Sanatoria for Tuberculous Patients are provided by the County Council as well as provision for Small Pox cases.

A Maternity Ward is available in the County Hospital at Winchester, arrangements being made by the County Medical Officer of Health.

A Cottage Hospital which is supported by voluntary contributions contains 20 beds. A large number of cases can be accommodated there, among them some children, and occasionally Maternity cases. This Hospital, which has been in existence for many years was rebuilt in 1923, and opened in 1924. It is now one of the most up-to-date Cottage Hospitals in England.

The Workhouse Infirmary accommodates a number of patients and also has an annexe for small homeless children. A large new Infirmary is being built.

The Isolation Hospital consists of two blocks, one containing two wards of ten beds, and the other two wards of four and two beds. It has therefore only accommodation for two diseases. The Isolation Hospital is held jointly by the Urban District and Rural Councils.

One Ambulance is available for Accident and Infectious cases.

A Child Welfare Centre is situated in Church Street under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health. The nearest Tuberculosis Dispensary is at Aldershot, and is under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health.

The Medical Officer of Health is part time, his salary being

paid by the Council.

O. V. Payne. M.B. B. Ch.

Sanitary Inspector. G. H. Webb.

One Nurse is available for Home Nursing. Her salary is paid by a Nursing Association, and with no assistance from the County or Urban District Councils. No other Nurse is available for infectious diseases.

One Nurse provided by the County Council acts as Health Visitor, School and Tuberculosis Nurse.

There are four Midwives practising in the District.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Act 1925 (Parts II to V)

Public Health Act 1907 except Section 51. 68. 76. 77. 78.

79. 80. 82. 83. 84. 85. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95

Byelaws.

Nuisances. }

Lodging Houses. }

Tents Vans Sheds. }

Dairies and Cowsheds. 1.11. 1907.

New Streets and New Buildings 4. 9. 1907. (now under revision)

Removal of House Refuse. 17. 3. 1925.

Slaughterhouses. 17. 3. 1925.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The water supply of Alton is obtained from a Water Works owned by the Council. The water is obtained from a deep well and boring sunk to an approximate depth of 617 feet, into the upper Greensand, and a constant supply is maintained by gravitation to the whole of the town direct, to the houses, with the exception of an outlying part of the Urban District known as Beech and a few isolated houses and farms.

The number of persons supplied from the Water Works is about 5000, and ample supply of undoubted purity is maintained at all times, though the water is of a somewhat hard character, and there is no risk of contamination.

The remainder of the District relies upon rain water or local wells for its water supply. Every care is exercised to see that all rain water tanks and wells are constructed in such a manner that no contamination is possible, and no cases have been noticed.

Beech, with a population of about 400, is so situated geographically that a supply from the existing Water Works is not possible without pumping.

RIVERS AND STREAM.

Pollution of the River Wey by the effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works owned by the Council has been alleged by the Thames Conservancy. The Works were reconstructed in 1924 - 25, on up-to-date lines, and no reports of pollution have since been received.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The portions of the Urban area supplied with water are efficiently drained on the water carriage system by gravitation to a Pumping Station, whence the Sewage is pumped to the disposal works about one mile from the Town and treated through a newly constructed system of sedimentation, humus tanks and percolating filters, producing a uniformly good effluent.

All houses are provided with water closets and interceptors and are ventilated.

Beech and a few outlying houses are provided with earth closets and cesspools.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging of the whole of the Urban District is carried out by the Council. House refuse is removed fortnightly from Beech, weekly in the Town, and twice weekly from certain premises found to be necessary.

The refuse is removed to the Sewage Disposal Works, rubbish burned, the remainder mixed with sludge, and disposed of to a neighbouring farmer.

Trade refuse, earth closets and cesspools are cleared by owners or tenants. During recent years, all fixed ashbins have been dispensed with, and moveable receptacles provided.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

ACTION TAKEN.

| Year. | Homes. | Slaughterhouses. | Dairies. | Cowsheds. | Bakehouses. | Factories & Workshops. | Informal Notices. | Statutory Notices. | Result. |
|---------|--------|------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1921. | 251. | 45. | 14. | 17. | 7. | 32. | 38. | - | All nuisances abated |
| 1922. | 220. | 37. | 9. | 30. | 5. | 67. | 44. | - | " |
| 1923. | 197. | 43. | 6. | 19. | 7. | - | 14. | - | " |
| 1924. | 147. | 48. | 8. | 18. | 8. | 51. | 23. | 7. | " |
| 1925. | 198. | 52. | 6. | 17. | 5. | 44. | 21. | 25. | " |
| Totals. | 1013. | 225. | 47. | 101. | 32. | 194. | 140. | 32. | |

Summary of Inspections during 1925.

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Housing Inspection | 147. |
| Housing (1910 Regulations) | 51. |
| Slaughterhouses | 52. |
| Dairies | 3. |
| Cowsheds | 17. |
| Bakehouses | 5. |
| Fish Frying | 9. |
| Manure Pits | 6. |
| Stopped Drains | 2. |
| Rooms disinfected | 19. |

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been necessary in this connection during the last five years.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

The following workshops and workplaces come within the operations of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901 :-

Bakehouses 7. Printers 2. Dressmakers and Tailors 12.

Upholsterers and Furniture Makers 1. Harness Makers 2.

Motor and Cycle Engineers not employing power 2. Watchmakers 4.

Blacksmiths 3. Bootmakers and Menders 6. Plumbers and Printers 6

Builders 5. Laundries 3.

No premises are used for houses let in lodgings, offensive trades or lodging and accommodation of hop-pickers etc., and no regulations are required here under Section 18 (1) of the Housing Act 1925.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary arrangements and water supply of schools are up-to-date and adequate. Inspection is carried out from time to time.

H O U S I N G .

I GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. & 2. During the past five years, Alton has, in common with other towns, suffered a dearth of new houses for the working classes, practically none of this class having been erected during that time, although a number of houses have been built by owner-occupiers.

The Council erected six houses in 1920, and are now building 38 houses to be let at a rental of approximately 10/6d.

per week.

3. No important changes in population have taken place in the last five years, and none is anticipated in the future.

II OVERCROWDING.

A considerable amount of overcrowding has been unavoidable during the period due to the causes mentioned above. Some of this overcrowding has been temporarily caused by married children living with parents until an opportunity arose to obtain accommodation elsewhere. It is hoped that the erection of the houses previously mentioned will effectually deal with overcrowding but should this not be the case, the Council have land available for the erection of a further 26 houses.

Four serious cases of overcrowding have been dealt with in 1925, and abated after service of statutory notices.

III FITNESS OF HOUSES.

(1) The general standard of Housing in the Urban District is good, the houses being soundly constructed, and as a whole kept in good condition repair. Four back to back houses will be closed under Sections 11, 14, and 15, of the Housing Act 1925, as soon as other accommodation is provided for the occupants. The defects found to exist in unfit houses were principally leaking roofs and damp walls caused by broken guttering or defective external plastering.

The internal defects were broken flooring and plastering caused for the most part by careless tenants.

(2) The general minor repairs required, such as defective flushing cisterns, W. C. pans etc. were dealt with under the Public Health Acts, while structural repairs to houses were carried out by the owners.

(3) No difficulty has been found during the period under review in remedying the defects in houses, the owners in all cases readily

complying with the requirements of notices served within the time specified, while tenants of defective properties have been advised that it is to their advantage to treat with care the property under their tenancy.

(4) The water supply has been adequate for the needs of the population supplied, each house is provided with separate closet accommodation, refuse being collected and disposed of weekly as previously reported so preventing any accumulation.

IV No complaints have been received as regards unhealthy areas, and no special action has been required.

V BYELAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

Revised Byelaws relating to New Street and Buildings are in process of adoption by the Council while the existing Byelaws relating to tents, vans and sheds, provided adequate control..

VI GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

No action other than that set out in the Report has been found necessary in connection with any of the matters mentioned under this heading.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| (a) | Total | - | - | - | - | - | 30. |
| (b) | With state assistance under the Housing Acts:- | | | | | | |
| | (1) | By Local Authority | - | - | - | - | None. |
| | (2) | By other bodies or persons | - | - | - | - | 29. |

I Unfit Dwellinghouses.

Inspection.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------|
| (1) | Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 147. |
| (2) | Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. | 57. |
| (3) | Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | none. |
| (4) | Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 43. |

II Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. | 21. |
|---|-----|

III Action under Statutory Powers.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| A. Proceedings under Section 3 of Housing Act 1925. | 22. |
| (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | |

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

- (a) By owners 22.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners none.

(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close. none.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 3.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

- (a) By owners 3.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. none.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The milk produced within the Urban area is of a wholesome character.

Cowsheds are regularly inspected for cleanliness, ventilation etc., and visits are made during milking to insure that every precaution is taken to prevent contamination.

Dairies and milk stores also receive regular attention under the Dairies Cowsheds and Milkshops Order 1885. The Council also have regulations controlling Dairies and Cowsheds as regards construction, lighting, ventilation and general cleanliness.

Registers are kept of Producers and Retailers of Milk under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act of 1922.

No refusal or revocation of registration has been necessary.

Four cases of Milk samples reported as containing a visible quantity of dirty debris have been investigated immediately upon receipt of the complaint, the cause ascertained and steps taken to prevent recurrence.

(b) Meat.

(1) Inspection is carried out from time to time of places where meat is prepared and sold and of meat exposed for sale. Notice of regular hours for slaughtering have been given by the occupiers of Slaughterhouses, while notice is also given of special times for slaughtering in accordance with Sections of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, and inspection at the time of slaughter is carried out from time to time. No arrangements have been made for marking under these Regulations. No cases of diseased meat have been found during 1925, but during the period of 1921 - 1924, 196 lbs of beef and 45 lbs of sheep carcase found to be tubercular where condemned, removed by the Council and burned at the Sewage Disposal Works.

(2) All shops and stalls in the Town have been made to comply with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924.

(3) No, public Slaughterhouses.

Private Slaughterhouses.

| | In 1920. | In Jan. 1925. | In Dec. 1925. |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Registered | 4. | 3. | 3. |
| Licensed | <u> </u> | <u>1.</u> | <u>1.</u> |
| Total | 4.
<u>2.</u> | 4.
<u> </u> | 4.
<u> </u> |

(c) Other Foods.

Inspection of food exposed for sale is carried out and

every care exercised to prevent risk of contamination.

Bakehouses are regularly inspected, all are in good sanitary condition and are regularly linewhitened.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

Diphtheria.

During the period from January 1st, 1920 - 1925, 47 cases of Diphtheria have been notified. In August and September 1920 there were 9 cases, and in the early part of 1921 there were 3. The largest outbreak started in October 1921 and continued until April 1922, 33 cases occurred during this period.

Since then the Town has been practically free from this disease, one case occurring in August 1922, and another in November 1925.

The last case is interesting as the patient was admitted to Hospital with Diphtheria in December 1921, when she was re-admitted in 1925 it was found that a virulent type of bacillus persisted in her throat for three months and only disappeared after her tonsils had been removed.

All cases of Diphtheria are removed at once to the Isolation Hospital. Swabs of contacts are taken and examined at the County Laboratory at Winchester. Diphtheria antitoxin is used promptly in all cases and we do not necessarily wait for a positive result before using antitoxin. A supply of antitoxin is left by the Medical Officer of Health.

Very few cases of Malaria or Pneumonia were notified after 1919, and no cases of Dysentery or Trench Fever. Pneumonia seems to be more prevalent in the Winter and Spring when the Influenza epidemics occur.

No use has been made of the Schick or Dick tests in Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under Public Health (Smallpox) Regulation 1917.

Scarlet Fever.

43 cases of this disease occurred. They were all of a mild type except one which terminated fatally in June 1922. One outbreak lasted from September 1920 to December 1921, 22 cases being spread out over this period. All the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital except three which were isolated at Home.

Enteric Fever.

Two mild cases were notified in 1924. One was removed to the Isolation Hospital. The other which developed Measles was nursed at home. All the contacts were inoculated against Typhoid.

Varicella.

Several cases in 1923 when this disease was made notifiable locally, again in the end of 1924 and beginning of 1925.

Mumps. in January 1920.

Whooping Cough.

Autumn¹⁹²⁰ to March 1921. Again in April, May and June 1923. One death from this disease occurred in 1923.

Another epidemic among infants September - December 1925.

Measles.

An epidemic occurred in June, July and August 1920. A large number of children were attended and the Schools were closed.

A second epidemic occurred in April and May of 1924 and the Schools were closed. One death was caused by this disease.

Influenza.

This disease attacks the Town each Spring and the epidemic usually lasts from December or January to April. In 1921 and 1925 there was a second outbreak of a milder character in September.

In 1920 and 1921, 1923, the attacks were mild, but in 1922 there were 9 deaths attributable to influenza and again in 1924 another serious attack was responsible for 4 deaths.

In 1925 there was a severe outbreak and although no deaths were directly caused by influenza, 4 deaths were caused by bronchitis and 2 by pneumonia.

The teachers at the Council Schools give great assistance by notifying to the Medical Officer of Health as soon as a number of pupils are absent, stating as far as possible the cause. The Medical Officer then visits the school in question and excludes certain pupils or closes the school as he thinks best.

Rooms and articles that have been exposed to infection are disinfected by the Council immediately on receipt of notice from the Medical Officer of Health. Disinfection is carried out by means of a Formalin Lamp.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1925.

| | <u>Total Cases.</u> | <u>Cases admitted.</u> | <u>Deaths.</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | notified. | to Hospital. | |
| Scarlet Fever. | 12. | 10. | - |
| Diphtheria | 1. | 1. | - |
| Puerperial Fever. | 1. | 1. | 1. |
| Erysipelas. | 4. | - | - |
| Varicella. | 8. | - | - |

Tuberculosis. 4 New cases of Pulmonary. notified.

4 " " " Non Pulmonary.

3 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one from Non Pulmonary.

| | <u>Numbers.</u> | | | | <u>Deaths.</u> | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| | <u>Pul.</u> | | <u>Non. Pul.</u> | | <u>Pul.</u> | | <u>Non.Pul.</u> | |
| <u>Age Periods.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
| 0. | | | | 1. | | | | 1. |
| 5. | | | | 1. | | | | |
| 15. | | 1. | | | | | | |
| 20. | | | | 2. | | 1. | | |
| 45. | 1. | 1. | | | 1. | | | |
| 65 & over | | 1. | | | | 1. | | |
| Totals. | 1. | 3. | | 4. | 1. | 2. | | 1. |

O. V. Payne. M.B. B. Ch.

M.O.H. Alton Urban District
Council.

